



## ANECDOTES FOR OUR SOLDIERS.

### No. 1.

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OUR COUNTRY A CHRISTIAN COUNTRY.—There are no indications so well calculated to inspire us with confidence in the successful termination of the present war, and the future prosperity and glory of our country, as those which justify the assertion that our country is a CHRISTIAN COUNTRY, honoring God, as He has revealed himself in the Bible; recognizing His overruling providence in all events; in adversity and trial, bowing in humble acknowledgment of sin, and deprecating His deserved wrath; in the hour of success and triumph, ascribing all to His infinite goodness, and exalting Him with the voice of thanksgiving and praise. This, more than material resources, more than population, education, wealth, organization, and unanimity, constitutes the ground of that assurance, which we feel, that these Confederate States are not to be subjugated by any possible array of force on the part of our enemies; that their vain efforts shall be overruled in many ways for our good; and that, issuing from this war without serious damage, we shall enter upon a career of national prosperity, power, and influence beyond the highest conceptions in which we might hitherto have indulged.

It is, indeed, with unspeakable gladness that we have observed these indications, to which we have referred; and it is our purpose to bring them promi-

nently before the public, that, if there be any timid minds among us, hoping yet fearing as they yield to the current of inevitable events, they may be enabled to see the claims of their country to their unbounded confidence, not less than to their sincere allegiance.

It is true, and the fact should occasion profound grief and humiliation, that our population includes many impenitent and even immoral persons and families; that there are sections of the land where the means of grace are very imperfectly enjoyed; that we have not an adequate supply of Bibles and Sanctuaries; that prayer is neglected by many, the Sabbath desecrated, and the name of God profaned. These things should lead to greater efforts for the thorough evangelization of our land; but they are not so general, thank God, as to constitute our national character. As a people, with local and individual exceptions, while we fall far short of our privileges and duty, we are not an ungodly nation: and never before has this been more clearly manifested than during recent events.

Our only embarrassment is to know where to begin, in pointing out the evidences of this delightful truth. Every department of our public service seems to be pervaded by the faith and the fear of God. We see it in the army, in the Cabinet, in Congress, in the press, as well as in social and private life. God seems to have sanctified our national trials to us as a people; and under the sense of our great need, every heart has been turned to Him in humble, sincere prayer and adoration. Rarely have our churches been so crowded with worshippers as on all the occasions—first, of humiliation, and second, of thanksgiving—appointed by our recognized authorities. It has been more than a mere passing sentiment—it has been the deep religious sense of the people which

has thus promptly, and in the spirit of these scriptural acts, responded to the ordinance of our rulers. We cannot doubt that our national confessions and our national thanksgivings were accepted of God, offered as they were through the merits of the Redeemer.

It was no accident that, as the result of our first elections, Christian men were raised to the positions of trust and power in the Confederacy. The distinguished men, who framed our admirable Constitution, *forgot not* to impress upon that fundamental law of our country, so as never to be obliterated, the features of a christian revelation, in their recognition of the God of the Bible as the King of kings and Sovereign of worlds. The President, with nearly every member of his cabinet, and a large majority of our congressmen, are, it is believed, consistent professors of religion in some one of our denominations. They are men of prayer; and it is in no spirit of formality that they call the nation to acknowledge Jehovah of Hosts, whenever He manifests Himself either in judgment or in mercy.

Enter that noble hall, in the City of Richmond, where our Confederate Congress sits in deliberation for the interests of the land. It is the *day after the victory at Manassas*. The House is not yet called to order, but a most impressive spectacle is before you. "There is none of the boisterousness or levity which usually preceded the fall of the chairman's gavel; members meet each other in the congratulations of a deep and solemn joy." The summons to order is given, and the "scene becomes truly affecting, as, with bowed heads and hushed reverence" the members unite in the solemn address to God, with which the business of the day opens. The chaplain prays that "the country might recognize in its victory the interposition of the God of

Hosts; that it might be truly thankful for the merciful outstretching of His omnipotent arm; that it might be preserved from the sins of self-reliance and self-exultation; that God would continue His favor to us until peace was assured; that the consolations of His grace might be administered to families bereaved by the battle; and that He might protect the children and brothers and husbands and fathers, who were fighting for our independence, by the shield of His everlasting and unwearied mercy." And now, a member rises to call for the reading of the President's despatch from the field of battle, announcing the great victory. After the reading with a very few appropriate remarks, the same member moves the passage of the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That we recognize the hand of the Most High God, the King of kings and Lord of lords, in the glorious victory with which He has crowned our arms at Manassas; and that the people of these Confederate States are invited, by appropriate services on the ensuing Sabbath, to offer up their united thanksgiving and praise for their mighty deliverance.

*Resolved*, That deeply deploring the necessity which has washed the soil of our country with the blood of so many of her noblest sons, we offer to their respective families and friends our warmest and most cordial sympathy, assuring them that the sacrifice made will be consecrated in the hearts of our people, and will there enshrine the name of the gallant dead as the champions of free and constitutional government.

*Resolved*, That we approve of the prompt and patriotic efforts of the Mayor of the City of Richmond to make provision for the wounded, and that a committee of one member from each state be appointed to co-operate in the plan.

These resolutions were *unanimously* adopted, and without other business the House adjourned for the day. Such were the proceedings of our Congress on the day after a great and memorable battle and victory? The scene was worthy of the occasion, and such as could only have occurred in a christian body, representing a christian people.

Take another scene in the same city, the day before the battle; you may learn the spirit which animates our troops. A detachment of Hampton's Legion march into the shade, in a convenient position to wait the hour for the cars to leave. Just before they resume their march, their Lieutenant-Colonel draws them up in double line, and says: "Soldiers, it is proper at all times to acknowledge our dependence on God, but more especially at this time; and for this purpose the Rev. Mr. Barnwell has been requested to lead us in prayer." It would have affected you to see those men uncover and bow their heads reverentially, while the petition was presented in their behalf. That Lieutenant-Colonel (Johnston) fell in the subsequent battle, with many of the brave men with whom he that day bowed in prayer. *He was a christian soldier*; and there are thousands such as he in the ranks of our noble defenders. Well might the journalist, who furnished these facts, ask, "can a brave people, engaged in a righteous cause, and so fervently acknowledging God as their defender, ever be conquered?"

It is probable that the vast majority of our soldiers are supplied with Bibles and Testaments. and, in most cases, *this is the only book they have*; and *they read it*, perhaps with more simple earnestness than they ever did before. The copy of young M, son of an ex-Senator of the United States, will be dearer than ever, since

the late battle. His life was saved by it in precisely the manner in which a Testament saved the life of the celebrated Colonel Gardiner, of the British army. May it, in his case, also, lead to the same result—the hearty consecration of himself to the service of that God whose providence so signally preserved him !

One of the most impressive indications of the christian character of our people may be found in the unwonted eagerness of the *secular press*, not only to present events in a religious aspect, but to introduce religious topics, and to urge attention to religious duties. From our exchanges of a few days past, we have collected a large number of such instances. Some of the best appeals for Sabbath schools, for missions, for a religious literature, and for *union in prayer*, have appeared in their columns. We give the following from a Virginia paper, not only as an illustration, but that we may earnestly second the proposition it contains. Let us thus, by a real CONCERT OF PRAYER, in which every citizen of the Confederacy may join, without inconvenience, and doubtless with the acceptance of God, exhibit in a manner the most beautiful and sublime, the truly christian character of our country ! The following is the proposition referred to :

“PRAYER PROPOSED.—A distinguished professor in one of our universities proposes, through a Georgia paper, that at precisely one o'clock, every day, until these calamities be overpast, a few minutes be set apart for prayer by each individual in the Confederate States, or in states which sympathize with the Southern Confederacy. There may be no meeting for prayer at any particular place, but let each one for himself, wherever he may be at one o'clock, spend a little while in supplication to the Almighty. Let the merchant retire for a

moment from his counting-room, or if this be not possible, let him lift up his heart to God in pious ejaculation; let the farmer stop his plough in the furrow; let the mechanic stay his hand from labor; let the physician pause a moment on his mission of mercy; let the lawyer lay aside his brief; let the student rest from his toil; let the mother lay her babe in the cradle; let the busy housewife suspend her domestic cares; let every man, whatever his calling or pursuits, suspend them; let all business halt, and the whole land be still. In that moment of quiet, in very mid-day, when stillness is so unusual, when it will be then all the more impressive, let every praying soul remember his country and its defenders before God. It would be best, if possible, to retire for the moment to some private place, and on bended knees give oral utterance to the desires of the heart. But if this cannot be done, the silent prayer may be sent up to God as we walk the street, or pursue our journey, or even in the midst of the whirl and din of business life. Thus shall every heart be engaged, and every soul come to the rescue; thus shall all the devout of the land be brought near each other, for

“Though sundered far, by faith they meet,  
Around one common mercy seat.”

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**KERSHAW'S REGIMENT AT MANASSAS.**—That evening (Thursday) our regiment was ordered to the left, and they were industriously employed in throwing up breast-works. Here we remained until twelve o'clock on Sunday, when we were ordered to take up the line of march and join the fight now raging about one mile or more to our left.

The enthusiasm of the men was glorious. Off we



went at the double quick, when just before reaching the battle field we met hundreds of our men retreating, who, as we came up to them, with uplifted arms, besought us for "God's sake not to go on, that we were marching to an inevitable doom, and that the day was lost." These supplications seemed to have but little effect upon our men, who had but so recently *been nerved to the conflict in their solemn appeal to heaven.* For myself I only felt that if the day had indeed been lost, we, at least, would make one stout effort to redeem it.

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**POWER OF PRAYER.**—One word as to the power of prayer. If you have the welfare of our beloved Confederacy at stake—if you believe that "prayer moves the Hand that moves the universe"—now is the important season for earnest, importunate prayer. In your closets—in your public assemblages—in the houses devoted to the public worship of God, pray for the success of our arms. Pray that God will shield our soldiers in the hour of battle.

"The prayer of the righteous availeth much." Our dearest interests are at stake. Life, liberty—the freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience—are pending upon this momentous struggle, and it behooves every christian to "put on the whole armor of God, and fight valiantly as becomes good soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ."

An affecting incident is related of one of the Georgia companies engaged in the battle of Manassas. Mothers, wives, and sisters, who had sons, husbands, and brothers engaged in that deadly strife, met every day for the purpose of supplicating God's blessing upon

those dear ones who were far removed from the objects of their love, and the event proved that although the regiment with which they were connected was terribly cut up, not one of this company suffered. What an encouragement to prayer! And with these facts before us—with an inward consciousness that God heareth the prayer of those who call upon him in sincerity and truth—we earnestly beseech you to devote yourself to this important work

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**BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING.**—A correspondent of the *Biblical Recorder* relates the following incident: “Yesterday when I was distributing tracts in a military hospital, a sick soldier selecting one tract of each sort from the bundle I laid by his side, handed me twenty-five cents, saying: ‘Here, take that if you please for the tract cause. A tract was the instrument under God in the conversion of my soul, and ever since I have been a regular contributor to the Tract Society. It is a great work, and I hope you will do much good among us here.’ ”

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**PRAYER A POWER IN BATTLE.**—We are highly gratified to make record of the fact, that the commander of the marine iron battery Virginia requested prayer to be offered in the churches of Richmond, on Sabbath, for her safety and success in the brilliant engagement with the blockading fleet of the enemy. If this spirit prevails with all our military officers we shall be invincible. No force of man shall be able to overcome us, if we go into battle with the prayer of Asa: “Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many or with them

that have no power; help us, O Lord our God, for we rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go against this multitude."

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**APPROPRIATE SERVICE.**—Offered on board of the Confederate States steam frigate Virginia, in grateful acknowledgement to Almighty God for the distinguished victory gained in Hampton roads on Saturday and Sunday, the eighth and ninth days of March, 1862. These services of praise and grateful adoration were performed on the gun-deck of the steamer, at the request of the officers and crew—all hands being there assembled—at twelve o'clock, M., on Monday, March 10, by Rev. J. D. Wingfield, Assistant Rector of Trinity Church, Portsmouth, Va.

**THE ADDRESS.**

*"My brave and distinguished friends:* If there be an emotion in the soul of man more prominent or more esteemed among men than another, it is that of deep and earnest GRATITUDE for blessings vouchsafed—it is that one universal thread which binds all hearts in one—uniting that one to the heart of Him who sits the enthroned Potentate of the Universe. If ever there was a time which called loudly for the exhibition of this holy emotion, it is the great and illustrious present. If ever there were individuals, or a people who should anxiously desire to manifest in words and deeds by some public and appropriate exercise, *you* are the men, *we*, the citizens of the Confederate States of America, are the people. The present is undoubtedly an occasion when, after some special manner, we should render to Him who presides over the destinies of nations, and who is

the Sovereign Ruler of events, the sacrifice of praise and grateful adoration. For, over and above the ordinary occurrences of this most wicked and unrighteous war, which call forth our gratitude to the great God of heaven and earth, *this* is a signal mercy—an extraordinary, if not miraculous, deliverance. And as we set up in conspicuous places the statues of heroes and of patriots, who have well deserved the praise and honor of their fellow countrymen, thus upholding their memory to future generations, and inciting others to imitation of their valorous deeds—just so should we, as it were, in the loftiest and securest apartments of the soul, erect mementos of the gracious dealings of a kind and watchful Providence, in order that our spirits, surveying the brilliant record of past distinguished services, may be kept always attuned to gratitude and praise. Then, undoubtedly, as we have already stated, the mercy for which we are at this time assembled to express our gratitude with the voice of praise and thanksgiving, deserves to be classed amongst the special and extraordinary mercies of God.

“When, a few days ago, at the suggestion of our highly esteemed President, we observed a day of solemn fasting, humiliation, and prayer on account of our recent disasters, men’s hearts sank within them; and there was dread at every throb of the electric wire, lest it should bring to us fresh tidings of disaster and defeat. We had heard of the surrender of our little army and the destruction of a portion of our inadequate fleet at Roanoke; and despatches from the far West were sadly discouraging. Truly were our hearts downcast and disquieted. But now! Now! How suddenly all is changed! The sunshine of a favoring Providence beams upon every countenance! Our arms have been

marvellously crowned with success ! A handful of men, as it were, have defeated thousands ! Heroes have suddenly arisen, who have made themselves names high up on the monument of fame, which shall never, never die ! Officers and crews have alike shown themselves equal to the most fearful emergencies ! And the happy result is, that the fierce weapons of our insolent foes are broken ; the enemy's mighty ships are spoiled ; our long blockaded port is once again thrown open ; and our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude at the great and glorious victory !

“ And now, the question arises : Whom are we to thank for all this ? Doubtless I may take upon myself the liberty of expressing, on the part of the people, their acknowledgments to you, individually and collectively, for this distinguished and valorous deed. Our government cannot be too lavish in tendering their thanks and the thanks of the nation, to the wise and gallant men, who, by their undaunted bravery and their prudential counsels, and by their unhesitating devotion to their country's sacred cause, have rolled back the tide of invasion from our immediate shores. But Thine Hand, O Lord God Almighty ! and Thine alone, hath really brought about this happy result. Thine, O Lord, is the Greatness ! Thine, O Lord, is the Power ! Thine, O Lord, is the Victory ! Thine, O Lord, is the Majesty ! And, therefore, are we now assembled to bring before the Lord our God the tribute of our thanksgiving and praise.

“ I invite you, therefore, my brave friends, without any further remarks, to join me in this act of gratitude to the Almighty, who has given you the opportunity to render such distinguished service to your country, and to the cause of justice and true liberty. Lift up your

hearts in sincerity and truth, that the words of your mouth may be acceptable in the sight of the Lord your Saviour and Redeemer. In His infinite goodness and mercy, the most blessed and glorious Lord God has preserved your life from every harm. When death-shots were falling around upon you thick and fast and heavy, He rescued you from the jaws of fearful destruction. Let us, therefore, humbly present ourselves before His Divine Majesty, to offer a sacrifice of grateful praise and adoration, remembering, in your prayers, your own individual preservation, and forgetting not the suffering of your wounded officers and companions in arms, and the sorrows of the afflicted relatives of those who have gallantly fallen upon the altar of their country."

Hereupon followed suitable prayers—original and from the Prayer-book—of thanksgiving for the victory; of supplication in behalf of the wounded, and the afflicted relatives; and a general prayer in behalf of the Confederate States, their rulers, and their valiant men of war: all falling to the deck of the ship upon their knees, and bowing their heads in reverence and godly fear. During this solemn and impressive scene, and while the earnest voice of the young divine was pouring forth eloquent words of gratitude and praise into the ear of the Lord God of Sabaoth, the weather-beaten faces of many of the gallant seamen were observed to be bathed in tears, and trembling with emotions. Surely, I thought, as I turned away from such an affecting sight, God cannot refuse to accept such an act of thanksgiving; our cause cannot but prosper, when the men who are engaged in it recognize the hand of the Almighty in each event, and trust entirely to His guidance, and protection, and blessing. SPECTATOR.

*Norfolk, Va., March 13, 1862.*

A SOLDIER'S DEATH.—Of all the trying incidents connected with this unnatural war, there is none so touching in its character as the death of one of those brave and devoted men on a bed of disease, who have enrolled themselves as the defenders of our country. The carnage of the battle field, if set in the shades of a death by violence and agony, has also its light of a glorious family escutcheon, to cheer the last moments of the dying hero. •

The Roman bard embodied the idea, which ever animates the patriot hero's heart in all ages and countries, when he said :

*“ Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori.”*

The christian soldier is yet inspired by a higher sentiment, when he feels that there is connected with his love of country and the resolve to die in its defence, rather than witness its pollution and subjugation, obedience to the God he serves and from whom he expects his future salvation.

But death by slow disease in a soldiers' hospital, surrounded by stranger faces, however kindly they may beam upon the sufferer, and however gentle a hand may soothe his anguish, and however sympathizing a spirit may receive his last agonizing breath, is a sad, sad fate. Such deaths daily occur in the various hospitals of our land. All that tenderness, sympathy, and woman's angelic ministrations can do are dispensed freely and fully to the dying patriot. The tears of our matrons are freely shed for the lonely stranger's fate, who, far from home and its endearments, separated by distance from the mother and sister whose happiness is mingled with his fate, or from the wife of his affections, and the prattling children who were wont to cling around his knee

and welcome him to a home of love, thus passes to the Hereafter, alike unknowing and unknown to those who surround his dying couch.

A Kentucky soldier died recently in one of the College street military hospitals, whose last moments were so illustrative of the character of a christian hero as to have excited a sensation of deep sorrow among those who witnessed his last moments. In the language of the attending surgeon, he was "every inch a man." His patience and fortitude were remarkably exhibited through every stage of his lingering illness, and he retained a clear intellect to the last. When dying and conversing about his death, he said that he was prepared for the change, and that "*there was victory beyond the grave.*" How much significance is attached to such a sentiment from the lips of a dying volunteer, who met his fate when engaged in a war for his country's independence! How touching, how manly, how soldier-like, and how replete with religious fervor and enthusiasm! There no despot troubles the disenthralled spirit; no mercenary and merciless invaders scatter their gory trophies around, no hearts are torn, no ties broken by the ambition of rulers and the cruelty and avarice of oppressors. The wreath of victory over sin, sorrow, and suffering is his.

The oppressors who would rob us of our homes and our honor, and who have waged this war, may thus send thousands of victims to an untimely grave, but they have no power over the freed spirit, which now claims an unrestrained allegiance to the only Power to whom homage and glory and dominion are due from all the earth.



WASHINGTON'S RELIGION.—*Messrs. Editors:* I have recently had the pleasure of reading a sermon preached in Newark, N. J., by the late Rev. Dr. MacWhorter, on the occasion of the death of General Washington. The lady of whom I obtained it, now ninety-five years of age, was at the time a resident of Newark, and heard the sermon. I send you a note to it, which, if you think best, you can insert:

Very truly, ———.

“General Washington was a uniform professor of religion. He steadily discountenanced vice; abhorred the principles of infidelity and the practices of immorality. He was a constant and devout attendant upon divine worship. In the army he kept no chaplain of his own, but attended divine service with his brigades in rotation, as far as conveniency would allow—probably to be an example to his officers, and encourage his soldiers to respect religion. He steadily attended the worship of God when President. He was not in this respect like too many, who practically declare themselves superior to honoring their Maker in the offices of religion. He firmly believed in the existence of God and his superintending providence. This appears in almost all his speeches and proclamations. He was educated in the Episcopal Church, and always continued a member thereof, and was an ornament to the same. He was truly of a catholic spirit, and considered the distinctions of the great denominations of christians rather as *shades* of difference, than anything substantial or essential to salvation. After President Washington's inauguration into his high office, in New York, knowing the multiplicity of business to which he must attend, and that he must not be interrupted by

